

**From:** [Vallette, Yvonne](#)  
**To:** [leslie.gecy](#)  
**Cc:** [Bellovary, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Highland Flats Tree Farm Wetland Mitigation Schedule-Topsoil Replacement and Grading  
**Date:** Friday, October 14, 2016 5:39:00 PM

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Leslie: Thank you for the update on how things are proceeding.

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**From:** leslie.gecy [mailto:lgcy@ecowest-inc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016 9:27 AM  
**To:** Vallette, Yvonne <Vallette.Yvonne@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Ashley Peck <AAPeck@hollandhart.com>; Bellovary, Chris <Bellovary.Chris@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Highland Flats Tree Farm Wetland Mitigation Schedule-Topsoil Replacement and Grading  
As you know, an electronic copy of the Section 404 permit for the Highland Flat Farm reservoir and associated mitigation work was received on September 28, 2016, 5 days after we were able to complete all possible non-permitted work, such as manual RCG in the Culvert Enhancement area, installation of the bulrush sod, placing grade staking in HW-2, checking the status of the remaining solarization materials and flagging out specific planting locations.

The Highland Flat Staff was able to re-mobilize shortly thereafter and prepare to strip the replacement topsoil (from an upland area) for use in HW-2 and move it to the restoration area. However, this task had to be temporarily halted during unseasonably wet Fall conditions. The beginning of October is generally relatively dry, with a long term average of 0.35" of precipitation for the period of October 1 through 10. In 2016, there was 2.32" of precipitation during the same 10-day time period, which exceeds even the long term average for the entire month (1.71") (Bonner Ferry WETS data, available at <http://agacis.rcc-acis.org/16021/wets/results><<http://agacis.rcc-acis.org/16021/wets/results>>).

The plan continues to be to strip the replacement topsoil and transport it to the HW area this week, with HW grading scheduled for next week. It is possible that a new storm system could affect the topsoil stripping and replacement as an approximately 1.5 additional inches of rain is forecast for the Naples, Idaho area Thursday night and Friday of this week (site specific forecast from NOAA 2016 <http://www.weather.gov/climate/getclimate.php><<http://www.weather.gov/climate/getclimate.php>>). Projected local precipitation amounts beyond that are currently unknown.

Absent additional heavy precipitation that interferes with the ability to work within wet soils without damage, we plan to initiate the mitigation grading on October 17.

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